



# PRESS RELEASE

## NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

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### 2005 FARM NUMBERS, LAND IN FARMS, AND LIVESTOCK OPERATIONS

**WEST VIRGINIA** -- The number of farms in West Virginia totaled 20,800 in 2005. The total land in farms was 3.6 million acres. The average farm size was 173 acres. These numbers were unchanged from the previous 4 years.

The West Virginia number of farms in the \$1,000 - \$9,999 economic sales class totaled 17,200, the same as 2004. Land in farms for this sales class totaled 2.05 million acres, a decrease of 20,000 acres from 2004.

The number of operations with cattle and calves totaled 12,500 operations, unchanged from 2004. Beef cow operations totaled 10,900 operations, unchanged from 2004. Milk cow operations totaled 470 operations, down 2 percent, or 10 farms, from 2004.

The number of operations with hogs and pigs totaled 800 operations, unchanged from 2004.

The number of operations with sheep and lambs totaled 1,000 operations, down 9 percent, or 100 farms from 2004.

**UNITED STATES** -- The **number of farms in the United States** in 2005 is estimated at 2.1 million, 0.6 percent fewer than in 2004. Total land in farms, at 933.4 million acres, decreased 2.9 million acres, or 0.3 percent, from 2004. The average farm size was 444 acres during 2005, an increase of one acre from the previous year. The decline in the number of farms and land in farms reflects a continuing consolidation in farming operations and diversion of agricultural land to nonagricultural uses.

Compared to 2004, the number of farms in 2005 declined in 27 states, remained unchanged in 21 states and increased in two states, Texas (1,000 farms) and Alaska (20 farms). The largest decline in number of farms occurred in North Carolina (losing 2,000 farms) followed by Kentucky, Missouri, and Tennessee (each losing 1,000 farms) and Florida, Iowa, and Ohio (each losing 700 farms).

The number of operations with cattle totaled 982,510 during 2005, down 1 percent from 2004 and 3 percent below 2003. Beef cow operations in 2005 were down 1 percent from 2004 and 3 percent below 2003. Milk cow operations were 4 percent below last year and 9 percent below two years ago. Texas had the largest number of operations with all cattle with 150,000 operations and also had the largest number of operations with beef cattle with 131,000 operations. Wisconsin had the largest number of milk cow operations with 15,300 operations.

The number of operations with hogs totaled 67,330 during 2005, down 3 percent from 2004 and 9 percent from 2003. Places with 2,000 or more head accounted for 79 percent of the inventory. Iowa had the largest number of hog operations with 8,900 operations.

The number of operations with sheep totaled 68,280 during 2005, up 1 percent from both 2004 and 2003. Of all sheep operations that include breeding sheep, 90.8 percent were comprised of 1-99 head, 7.6 percent had 100-499 head, and the remaining 1.6 percent were operations with 500 head or more. Operations with 1-99 head account for 28.7 percent of the inventory, 100-499 head account for 24.0 percent of the inventory, and 500+ head account for 47.3 percent of the inventory. Texas had the largest number of sheep operations with 6,900 operations.

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